



UPSTATE

MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

EDUCATION • HEALTHCARE • RESEARCH

Office of the President

October 13, 2016

A message to the Upstate Medical University community

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

Visionary. Innovative. Impressive. These words come to mind after a visit and tour last week with Senator John DeFrancisco of Upstate's Central New York Biotech Accelerator, located just a few blocks on the northern part of our campus. Inside this 21st century facility are a half dozen start-ups focusing on drug development and discovery, biomedical applications for treating cystic fibrosis and skin diseases, and other health and environmental issues.

It's also home to our work in Precision Medicine and the Upstate Theater in the MIND (Medical Innovation and Novel Discovery). Both efforts are being championed by Pathology Chair Dr. Robert Corona and have the capacity to improve the human condition and how we deliver health care. Imagine medical care where disease treatment and prevention is tailor made to reflect your environment, your lifestyle and your genetic makeup. This is research that is underway here at Upstate.

The CNY Biotech Accelerator and the work we support and do here should be a source of pride to us all. It touches on all facets of our mission: education, research, health care and community.

It is fitting then that this center will host Upstate's first Presidential Symposium on October 28 and 29, featuring keynote speaker Mary-Claire King, PhD, the noted geneticist and discoverer of the BRCA1 gene. Dr. King is not only an incredible scientist but a human rights activist. In 1984 she and her laboratory worked on the Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo (Grandmothers of Plaza de Mayo) in Argentina, using genetics to identify 59 of the missing children whose mothers "disappeared" under the Argentine military dictatorship. Her visit with us will exemplify not only the highest level of science but the application of science to do good. All students, faculty and staff are encouraged to attend the colloquium. The sessions will be interactive and engage us all in thinking about the opportunity to change our world for the better through knowledge. Details are here: www.upstate.edu/president/pdf/pres-symposium-10-28-16.pdf

This Fall moves us closer to adopting an updated strategic plan for the university. The process is helping us to define strategic objectives for the university and the measurements we will use to track our successes.

As I have noted earlier, four central themes have emerged to guide our discussions: The themes are: (IIIIE)

Continued on page two

Integration: Upstate is one university, connected by mission and aligned leadership integrated through a culture of inclusion, transparency and trust.

Innovative Learning and Discovery: Upstate is a destination of choice for patients and innovative employees, educators, learners and researchers.

Community Impact: Upstate is a collaborative and trusted partner in service to our communities.

Execution and Growth: Upstate is an excellent university growing through aligned decision making, efficient, effective operations, quality services and a dedicated and diverse workforce

You can ask your questions of the process, provide input and monitor the progress at our new strategic plan website: www.upstate.edu/strategicplan/. Thank you for your continued interest in this important work.

As I continue to hold my meet and greet sessions with employees, including some who have just joined Upstate, I am pleased to hear of the wonderful welcome they have received from co-workers. To hear the pride these individuals have in working at Upstate, is what it is all about.

Each month I get to learn more about the community and those who want to establish greater relationships with Upstate. Helping us in that direction is our new director of community relations Linda J. Veit. Many of you know of her successful work with the Upstate Cancer Center and the She Matters Breast Cancer Screening Program that is making a difference in the lives of our neighbors. She will help us envision even greater outreach efforts and enhance our support from key stakeholders.

Other individuals who continue to be vital to our outreach efforts are our students. Connecting with the Syracuse City School District students in our schools, as big brothers and big sisters to our young cancer patients and as enthusiastic members of Team Upstate supporting local charities, these individuals are tireless in their service to Upstate.

Just recently, 23 students were selected to serve as **Student Presidential Ambassadors**. Representing our various academic programs, these students will help broaden our outreach and share Upstate's mission and our successes within the community.

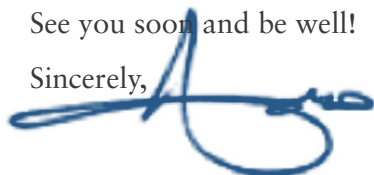
In closing I want to thank you all for your continued support and the work you do every day. Your efforts are making a difference in the lives of so many.

Finally, remember to save the following days on your calendar: (more details to follow)

- **First Presidential Symposium: October 28-29, 2016**
- **Second Town Hall Meeting: November 21, 2016 – 4 p.m.**

See you soon and be well!

Sincerely,



Danielle Laraque-Arena, MD, FAAP
President, Upstate Medical University